



# NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD  
OF EQUALIZATION**

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Sacramento  
California 95814

**BILL LEONARD**  
Member, BOE  
Second District

**RAMON J. HIRSIG**  
Executive Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEONARD ANNOUNCES 2004 TAXABLE SALES – FIRST QUARTER**

Bill Leonard, Member, State Board of Equalization (BOE), announced today that the preliminary statewide calculations for first quarter 2004 taxable sales show an increase over the actual figures for the same quarter a year ago.

BOE estimated that California businesses completed approximately \$110.8 billion in transactions subject to the sales and use tax during the first quarter of year 2004 -- an increase of about 6.0 percent over the first quarter 2003 final total of \$104.5 billion.

Recent taxable sales and their year-to-year percent changes are shown below:

	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.</u>
Taxable Sales (millions)				
2001	104,176	112,318	109,283	115,740
2002	100,957	111,017	112,170	116,805
2003	104,453	114,478	115,684 (est.)	119,695 (est.)
2004	110,765 (est.)			
Year-to-Year Percent Change				
2001	4.3	1.2	-2.9	-2.3
2002	-3.1	-1.2	2.6	0.9
2003	3.5	3.1	3.1 (est.)	2.5 (est.)
2004	6.0 (est.)			

The increase in first quarter sales figures marks the largest increase in taxable sales since the fourth quarter of 2000, when an increase of 8.7% was posted. This increase is a good indication that the California economy continues its recovery.

It is important to note that these first quarter 2004 figures are preliminary, based on raw sales tax receipts tabulated before adjustments for any late tax returns. Figures for cities and counties will not be available for another three months.

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